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 DE RUEHMO #7180 1621458  
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 O 111457Z JUN 82  
 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5830  
 INFO RUFH LG/AMCONSUL Leningrad 7694  
 RUDKRW/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 9406  
 RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 7788  
 RUFHEB/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 3894  
 RUDKAR/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 8198  
 RUDKDA/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 7303  
 RUDKRP/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 8000  
 RUDKSA/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 7309  
 RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 3017  
 RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4909  
 RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1981  
 RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 7368  
 RUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO 1915  
 RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4094  
 BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 07180

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 6/11/02 (PASCOE, B. LYNN) OR-P  
 TAGS: PEPR, UR, XH  
 SUBJECT: CRIMEAN MEETINGS RUMORED OFF

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State Dept. review completed

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STATE

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PAGE 002

NC 8809780

TOR: 111513Z JUN 82

## 1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THREE EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS TELL US THE TRADITIONAL CRIMEAN MEETINGS BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND EAST EUROPEAN LEADERS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE THIS SUMMER BECAUSE OF BREZHNEV'S POOR HEALTH. INSTEAD, THE BLOC PARTY CHIEFS WILL COME TO MOSCOW IN DECEMBER TO CELEBRATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET UNION. THE SOVIETS WILL TRY TO PRESERVE THE INSTITUTION OF THE CRIMEA MEETINGS -- WHICH GIVES THEM A CENTRAL, COORDINATING ROLE -- EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE BEING FORCED TO SKIP A YEAR. FAILURE TO HOLD THE ANNUAL MEETINGS WILL BE TANTAMOUNT TO AN OFFICIAL ADMISSION OF THE DECLINE IN BREZHNEV'S HEALTH AND LEADERSHIP CAPACITY. END SUMMARY.

3. ON JUNE 8 A ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT HERE SOUGHT OUT EMBOFF TO TELL HIM HE HAD HEARD THERE WOULD BE NO CRIMEAN MEETINGS THIS YEAR -- BECAUSE OF BREZHNEV'S PRECARIOUS STATE OF HEALTH. ON JUNE 11 YUGOSLAV EMBASSY COUNSELOR PASANOVIC (PROTECT) TOLD US THE SAME THING, BUT ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO THE SOVIETS SOMEHOW TO PRESERVE THE INSTITUTION OF THE BILATERAL MEETINGS -- WHICH GIVE THE SOVIETS A CENTRAL AND COORDINATING ROLE -- EVEN IF BREZHNEV'S HEALTH DID NOT ALLOW THEM TO TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR. COMMENT: THE MENTION OF THE CRIMEA MEETINGS IN THIS WEEKS' CEMA COMMUNIQUE (SEPTTEL) MAY BE SUCH AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE IDEA ALIVE. END COMMENT. OUR YUGOSLAV CONTACT ALSO SAID HE THOUGHT THE SOVIETS WANTED TO GIVE BREZHNEV A CHANCE TO REST AND GATHER HIS STRENGTH FOR A POSSIBLE SOVIET-AMERICAN SUMMIT IN THE FALL.

4. HUNGARIAN SECOND SECRETARY THURMER (PROTECT) WAS THE MOST DEFINITE OF THE THREE ABOUT THE CRIMEAN MEETINGS NOT TAKING PLACE THIS SUMMER. HE TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 11 THAT BREZHNEV'S HEALTH WOULD NOT PERMIT A STRENUOUS SERIES OF MEETINGS, AND THAT THE UNUSUALLY COLD WEATHER IN THE USSR THIS SUMMER WOULD BE CITED AS THE REASON FOR DISPENSING WITH THEM. INSTEAD, THE HUNGARIAN SAID, BLOC PARTY CHIEFS WOULD COME TO MOSCOW

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STATE

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PAGE 003

NC 8809780

TOR: 111513Z JUN 82

IN DECEMBER FOR THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING  
OF THE SOVIET UNION. BLOC FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD  
SEMBLE IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER TO PREPARE FOR THAT  
ETING, HE SAID.

5. THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN SPECULATION, IN THE WAKE OF  
HUSAK'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, THAT KADAR MIGHT ALSO MAKE THE  
TRIP HERE. OUR HUNGARIAN SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT KADAR  
WOULD BE COMING, BUT "NOT SOON." HE ALSO SAID GROMYKO  
HAD BEEN INVITED TO VISIT HUNGARY, PROBABLY IN OCTOBER.  
THIS WAS ONE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WHEN HUNGARIAN  
AMBASSADOR SZUROS CALLED ON GROMYKO JUNE 1.

6. COMMENT: THE YEARLY CRIMEAN MEETINGS OCCUPY AN  
IMPORTANT PLACE IN SOVIET POLITICAL PRACTICE VIS-A-VIS  
THE EAST EUROPEANS. AS OUR YUGOSLAV COLLEAGUE POINTED  
OUT, THEY CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING  
INSTITUTIONS THAT GIVE THE SOVIETS AN INDISPUTABLE ROLE  
AS A "CENTER" OF THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. THE SOVIETS WILL  
NOT WANT TO LET THE IDEA OF THE CRIMEAN SUMMITS FALL BY  
THE WAYSIDE EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT HELD THIS YEAR, BUT IT  
MIGHT PROVE DIFFICULT TO RESUME THE PRACTICE AFTER A  
BREAK -- ESPECIALLY IF THERE IS ALSO A DISCONTINUITY IN  
THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP, THAT IS, IF BREZHNEV DIES IN  
THE MEANTIME. WE NOTE THAT THOSE EAST EUROPEANS WHO  
MIGHT WELCOME AN END OF THE PRACTICE ARE THOSE WHO TIPPED  
US OFF TO THIS YEAR'S SUSPENSION OF IT. END COMMENT.  
ZIMMERMANN

END OF MESSAGE

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